IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: TALTON, et al.

Application No.:

Examiner:

Filing Date:

Group Art Unit:

For:

METHODS FOR PREPARING COATED DRUG PARTICLES AND

PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS THEREOF

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Applications Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace lines 6-10 of the BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

with:--

The present application claims the benefit of PCT Application No. PCT/US99/27401, filed on November 18, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/110,291, filed on November 30, 1998, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/108,847, filed on November 18, 1998, which are all incorporated herein by reference.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

A replacement abstract is attached herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 27 as amended during the International Preliminary Examination and insert the following new claims 28-70.

Express Mail Label: EK575129662US

P1012775;1

M M